



Broadcast Educational Media Commission Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2021
2470 North Star Road, Columbus OH, 43221

I. **Call to Order:** At 10:05 a.m., Chairman Robert Smith opened the meeting of the Broadcast Educational Media Commission.

A. **Roll Call:** At 10:05 a.m., roll call was conducted by Mrs. Gage.

Members Present:

Chairman Robert Smith
Commissioner Geoffrey Andrews
Commissioner Matt Dole
Commissioner Stephen Black
Commissioner Rex Elsass
Commissioner Stephen Freeze, Esq.
Commissioner Christine Merritt
Commissioner Dr. Jan Osborn
Commissioner Meira Zucker
Designee Charles See
Designee Dr. Chris Woolard

Members Arriving Later:

Non-Voting State Senator Niraj Antani
Chelsea Golterman, staff member for Non-Voting State Senator Teresa Fedor

Members Absent:

Non-Voting State Representative Sharon Ray
Non-Voting State Representative Catherine Ingram

A quorum was declared.

Also Present at Meeting:

Executive Director Geoffrey A. Phillips;
Assistant Attorney General Ashley Barbone;
Former Designee Shaun Yoder

Also Present Virtually:

Craig Stevenson, Chief of Engineering and Broadcast Operations Officer;
Laura Bryson, Chief Information Officer;
Alina Gage, Chief Financial Officer;
And interested Citizens:
David Carwile, Administrator of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc;
Mark Jividen, Chairman of the Ohio Radio Reading Services Alliance;

Kevin Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations;
Tom Rieland, General Manager WOSU Public Media;
Dan Shellenbarger, Executive Director of Ohio Government Telecommunications
David Stein, Video Services Manager, Licking Area Computer Association;
Tom Gallick, Gongwer News;
and Susan Kratzer, Hannah News.

B. Commission Action Items:

1. Dr. Chris Woolard was sworn in as designee for the Ohio Department of Education at 10:07 a.m. by Assistant Attorney General Ashley Barbone.

Resolution 22-17: Motion to Approve September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

10:10 a.m. – Mr. Elsass moved for approval of the September 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Dole seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

2. Retiring WOSU General Manager Tom Rieland was recognized for his service to public broadcasting. Mr. Rieland expressed his appreciation to BEMC for their support over the years and especially during the last few months (with move of WOSU to new facility).

II. Finance

A. November 2021 Financial Statement

1. Mrs. Gage reviewed the November 2021 financial statement and said the commission is on track or FY22 spending. The first subsidy payments have been sent.

B. FY20-21 Audit

1. Ex. Dir. Phillips shared the FY20-21 audit completed by the Auditor of State. The auditors reported no findings, and no comments shared in the management letter.

C. FY23-28 Capital Budget Request

1. Dr. Osborn shared the FY23-28 capital budget request discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on 11/03/2021. He acknowledged all participants in the process.
 - a. Mr. Dole also recognized the team for the timeliness of the request. He reviewed the BEMC projects, as well as the Public Media (Ohio Public TV, Public Radio and Radio Reading Services) projects. He stated no substantive changes were made to the requests and he supports the concept of ranking all projects as first priority.
 - b. Mr. See also acknowledged the improved process. He shared the requests seem reasonable and highlighted the unique request from Ohio Government Telecommunications for the audio replacement project at the Statehouse Campus
 - i. Ex. Dir. Phillips shared an overview of the how the special OGT capital request came to be.
 - ii. Sen. Antani shared appreciation for OGT.
 - iii. Ex. Dir. Phillips shared a one-page overview of the BEMC FY23-28 capital request package. The traditional projects total \$3.3

million, OGT ask is \$1.1 million, totaling \$4.4 million. He highlighted the request from television and radio is focused on production and transmission. He further acknowledged this process was discussed well in advance of the deadline, resulting in a timely submission.

- iv. Mr. Freeze stated he was surprised to see that BEMC had jurisdiction over the Statehouse audio. Ex. Dir. Phillips stated it was originally under Capital Square Advisory Review Board (CSRAB) and how it came to be under the authority of the BEMC.
- v. Sen. Antani shared the intent of microphones in committee rooms has changed over time; from hearing others in the room to broadcasting.
- vi. Mr. Freeze asked who will own those assets. Ex. Dir. Phillips stated that issue has been identified and BEMC is working to determine that.
- vii. Mr. Dole added that questions arose about who owns the OGT project during the Finance Committee meeting on Nov. 03, 2021. OGT will work in conjunction with CSRAB, but OGT will own it.
- c. Mr. Martin, Chairman of the Ohio Educational Television Stations, said he concurs with the Finance Committee and appreciated the work of Mr. Carwile, Administrator of Ohio Educational Television Stations, Inc. He further offered his thoughts on the “three-legged stool” of broadcasting; all three legs are needed to make it (broadcasting) work.
- d. Mr. Stevenson, Chief of Engineering and Broadcast Operations Officer, shared current volume of activity numbers for Joint Master Control operations and expressed appreciation to the Finance Committee saying the capital funds will be used to replace end-of-life equipment or expand storage.
- e. Mr. Jividen, Chairman of the Ohio Radio Reading Services Alliance, said he appreciated in each capital cycle that Radio Reading Services can improve their facilities.
- f. Mr. Shellenbarger, Executive Director of Ohio Government Telecommunications, stated the OGT project is for the audio in the entire Statehouse and to address the issues the system is experiencing. The request will replace, not repair, the entire system and add audio to areas not currently wired. Mr. Freeze asked if the current system was approved by OBM. Ex. Dir. Phillips stated BEMC was not responsible for OGT at that time. Mr. Freeze asked if OBM could determine that BEMC is not the proper agency to ask for those funds. Mr. Shellenbarger answered it is a possibility, but with the integration of OGT into the audio and the broadcasting of all legislative activity to Ohioans, he anticipates OBM will understand the new way of thinking about the Statehouse audio.

Resolution 22-18: Motion to Approve the FY23-28 Capital Budget as Recommended by the Finance Committee

11:09 a.m. – Mr. Dole made a motion to submit to OBM the BEMC FY23-28 capital budget package and prioritize BEMC, Ohio Public Broadcasters (Ohio Public Television, Ohio Public Radio, and Ohio Radio Reading Services), and OGT projects equally, with each project group assigned as Priority #1, and authorize the Executive Director to make any adjustments as necessary to meet the OBM submission requirements. Mr. See seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

III. Executive Committee Report

1. Chairman Smith shared an overview of the Executive Committee meeting held on 11/12/2021. He asked Mr. Martin to provide input on the capital process, which he responded to with a memo. Chairman Smith asked Mr. Martin to share these thoughts at the next commission meeting. Mr. Martin stated he will.

IV. Educational Technology

1. Ms. Bryson provided an analytical review of the multimedia video productions for years 2014-2021. 361 videos were produced for \$6.7 million and are available on YouTube and other outlets. This intent is for projects to be aligned with state academic standards, though some projects include other topics, like college and career readiness. Videos are targeted to students, community, educators, and families. She further shared statistics about viewership across many categories.
2. Mr. Yoder gave an update on RemotEDx. He said BEMC had been a great partner in connection with students and schools in the at-home learning environment. He reviewed the vision and mission of RemotEDx: “Reimagining the future of education in Ohio”. Mr. Yoder touched on the participants at each stage of the process and goals for the team. He acknowledged Dr. Osborn, the commission, and PBS stations for moving the project forward.
 - a. Mr. Andrews offered his thoughts on RemotEDx and said the new focus is to take the best of what happened (during at-home learning), move it forward, and help individuals leverage existing tools. Dr. Osborn asked about Zoom licenses. Mr. Andrews said his organization purchased Zoom licenses about 6 months before the pandemic. 66,000 licenses have been distributed.
 - i. Chairman Smith asked if trends can be shared at the next meeting. Mr. Andrews agreed.
 - ii. Ex. Dir. Phillips asked where RemotEDx goes with the departure of Mr. Yoder. Dr. Woolard, who will take the lead, stated conversations with stakeholders had occurred and how to address learning loss.

V. **Ohio Administrative Code**

1. Ex. Dir. Phillips spoke about the JCARR 5-year rule review due in December 2021. One change is necessary to remove eTech reference and replace with BEMC.

Resolution 22-19: Motion to Conduct JCARR Rule Review

12:51 p.m. - Ms. Merritt moved to conduct the legally required five-year rule review for the following: O.A.C. 3353-1-14, O.A.C. 3353-1-14.1, O.A.C. 3353-1-14.2, O.A.C. 3353-1-14.3, O.A.C. 3353-1-14.4 – all of which pertain to compliance with the Ohio Privacy Act in Revised Code section 1347.15; And move to file with JCARR a “change” request for O.A.C. 3353-1-14 to update the agency name in accordance with section 119.03 of the Revised Code; And move to file with JCARR a “no change” request for O.A.C. 3353-1-14.1, O.A.C. 3353-1-14.2, O.A.C. 3353-1-14.3, and O.A.C. 3353-1-14.4 in accordance with section 119.03 of the Revised Code. Mr. Elsass seconded. The motion passed via unanimous roll call vote.

VI. **Staff Reports**

1. Ex. Dir. Phillips stated BEMC is undergoing a review of the Joint Master Control (JMC) and would like to have a meeting with the commissioners, the public broadcasting partners, the project consultant and a representative from HA Design to talk about the JMC system, capabilities, and possibilities.
2. Chairman Smith said he received a letter from Kitty Lensman expressing her gratitude to the staff for the Dayton Tower site land transfer to Greater Dayton Public TV.


VII. **Adjournment:**

Resolution 22-20: Motion for Adjournment

11:57 p.m. - Ms. Merritt moved to adjourn. Mr. Dole seconded. The motion passed via unanimous voice vote.



Robert C. Smith, Chairman
Broadcast Educational Media Commission



Date